(d) if there is no such scheme, whether Government would consider introducing such scheme for the traditional weavers in predominant tribal States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India has been implementing following schemes for assisting weavers in various States, including States in the North East India for promoting traditional arts:—

(i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS)

(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS)

(iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme (MGPS)

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS)

(c) and (d) The Government of India is providing monetary assistance for the benefit of the handloom weavers for overall development of the Handloom Sector in the country, including Nagaland State, subject to submission of viable proposals and availability of the budget under the above schemes. For the Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, North Eastern States including Nagaland *etc.*, the Government of India provides higher funding towards various components of some of the above schemes. A sum of Rs. 25.39 crore has been released to Nagaland State during last three years under various handloom schemes.

Revival of NTC mills

1854. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills under National Textile Corporation lying closed during the last three years;

(b) whether Government proposes to revive, re-open and modernize the above closed textile mills under public-private partnership;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the review package has been approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR); and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) So far National Textile Corporation (NTC) has closed 67 unviable mills under Industrial Disputes (ID) Act, 1947 as per rehabilitation scheme sanctioned by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and approved by Government.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to revive, reopen and modernize the above closed mills under public-private partnership.

(d) The original Revival Scheme was approved by the BIFR subsidiary-wise in April, 2002. Subsequently, a Modified Scheme (MRS-08) for NTC has been approved by BIFR on 05.09.2008.

(e) As per MRS-08, the period of implementation of revival scheme for NTC has been extended upto 31.03.2009. The total cost of MRS-08 is Rs. 9102 crores which is self financing. The resources are to be generated by sale of assets of closed mills and surplus assets of viable mills. Through MRS-08, BIFR has approved closure of 12 more mills. MRS-08 has also recommended writing off of Government loan and waiver of interest thereon, as on 31.03.2007. In addition, various reliefs and concessions on Income Tax, Wealth Tax, Capital Gain Tax *etc.* have also been approved by BIFR.

Consultants for evaluating TUF

1855. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether consultants have been appointed to study and submit report on evaluating Textile Upgradation Fund (TUF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the report has been submitted;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken on the report; and

(f) if not, by when the report will be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Weaver handloom hubs losing out to powerloom industry in Andhra Pradesh

1856. SHRI C. RAMA CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major weaver handloom hubs namely Charmavaram, Hindupur, Udavakunda, Rajadurgam and Pochampalli in Andhra Pradesh are losing out to powerloom industry because of power cuts;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking steps to address the issue as it happens to be the prime cause to aggravate the debt-driven suicides in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No such reports have been received from the State Government.